

TASIS



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL  
IN SWITZERLAND



## OUR MISSION

The American School in Switzerland (TASIS) welcomes young people from all nationalities to an educational community that fosters a passion for excellence along with mutual respect and understanding. Consistent with the vision of its Founder, M. Crist Fleming, TASIS is committed to transmitting the heritage of Western civilization and world cultures: the creations, achievements, traditions, and ideals from the past that offer purpose in the present and hope for the future. Seeking to

balance the pursuit of knowledge with the love of wisdom, and promoting the skills of lifelong learning, an appreciation for beauty, and the development of character, each school combines a challenging academic program with opportunities for artistic endeavor, physical activity, and service to others. Believing in the worth of each individual and the importance of enduring relationships, TASIS seeks to embody and instill the values of personal responsibility, civility, compassion, justice, and truth.

## HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

**TASIS** The American School in Switzerland is a school built on a vision. Our vision grows from a passionate belief in the importance of a classical education and noble virtues, experienced in a setting of breathtaking beauty at the crossroads of European and Mediterranean civilization. Our nurturing, supportive community of students and scholars believes such an education is the surest path, the firmest foundation, upon which to build a life.

M. Crist Fleming founded The American School in Switzerland in 1956, and in a 1996 speech she said:

*Maybe foolishly, but 40 years ago I did dream of a school or schools that by bringing young people closely together in their young and formative tender years we might be able to “bond” the world together in such a way that ties of understanding, compassion, love, and a sense of reality would create a saner, safer, better world.*

That dream comes to life daily in the experiences and programs of TASIS. Our campus and its buildings, with inspiring views of mountains and Lake Lugano, provide an ideal setting for study and reflection. A short drive from northern Italy, our home in Montagnola provides the starting point for an ambitious program of travel to sites near and far. Our location and program underscore our belief that students learn best through active, first-hand engagement with our world and its cultures.

We are a diverse and culturally rich school community. In our Middle and High Schools, we welcome 550 students representing more than 60 nations and speaking more than 30 languages as a mother tongue. Every day on campus brings fresh learning from different cultures and perspectives. Friendships forged here span continents and often endure for a lifetime.

Challenging our students to high academic and ethical standards, our 90 Middle School and



High School faculty members play active roles as teachers, advisors, coaches, dorm parents, trip leaders, and mentors. All are dedicated professionals, ready to make the most of both the place and the people of TASIS.

One of my major goals as Headmaster is to ensure that we continue to stress and highlight the things that were so important to Mrs. Fleming—academic excellence, the arts, beauty, the development of good character, service, civility, good manners, compassion, and respect, just to name a few. Because many of our students and teachers have not had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Fleming, we have important traditions like Founder’s Day so that she might come to life for them too.

As you review the words and images in this catalog, I invite you to imagine for yourself how our combination of place, people, and principles offers students a unique community in which to grow into their best selves. We hope you will consider bringing your talents to The American School in Switzerland.

Christopher Nikoloff  
TASIS Headmaster



## DARE TO DREAM BIG

Much of what makes TESIS distinctive results from the entrepreneurial style of our founder, M. Crist Fleming, whose ability to see and seize opportunities and to respond to needs with alacrity is legendary. Thanks to her, TESIS enjoys a culture that encourages and rewards initiative and creativity. In addition to individual initiative and creativity, this culture demands flexibility, patience, a positive attitude, and perseverance.

From its founding in 1956 to her passing in 2009, Mrs. Fleming cited TESIS as the fulfillment of her dreams and encouraged students to follow their own—to dream big enough and bold enough to lead a life of consequence and make the world “a better place in small and large ways for all the humans who inhabit it.” Her spirit is very much alive at TESIS today.

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*TESIS gave me the wings to fly high and reach my goals.*

*Recent TESIS graduate*

# DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF SWITZERLAND

Perched on a hillside in sunny southern Switzerland with commanding views of snow-capped mountains, palm trees, and Lake Lugano, our global village comprises 25 buildings dating from the 17th-century Villa De Nobili to the state-of-the-art Campo Science Center, completed in 2014.

“We are blessed indeed, each and every one of us, to live in one of the most beautiful

places in the world,” remarked Mrs. Fleming, who believed strongly that beauty matters. Her influence has informed all aspects of life at TASIS—from graceful settings and inspired architecture to paintings on walls, candles and flowers on tables, fine dress and a comely appearance, a well-crafted essay, a curving corner kick in soccer, a canvas on display at the Arts Festival, or a solo at the Christmas concert.



*The villa was perched high on a hill with a steep slope of trees and flowering bushes falling down to the lake—all breathtakingly beautiful. I stood there, exhausted but enchanted, and there came to me in that flood of moonlit beauty, that here there must be a school!*

*It was idyllic for young people—to live, to study, to play, to learn, in the midst of so much beauty, to fill their souls with it, to give them the will and the strength to fight the vast amount of ugliness in the world today.*

**M. Crist Fleming, recalling her first visit to Ticino**



## EXCEL IN THE CLASSROOM

With an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) and more than 15 Advanced Placement (AP) courses, our academic program is designed to challenge all students.

TASIS students have consistently outperformed their peers in their pursuit of the IB Diploma, which opens doors to outstanding colleges and universities around the world. Diploma candidates have achieved pass rates of 98 percent or higher each of the past five years, and the average diploma score for a TASIS student typically exceeds the world average by more than three points.

Our dedicated University and College Counseling Office helps all students develop a detailed academic plan that aligns with their post-secondary goals. Over the past five years, our experienced counselors have helped students gain acceptance to more than 400 universities in more than 20 nations, including Bowdoin, Cambridge, Cal-Berkeley, Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Edinburgh, Imperial College London, Johns Hopkins, King's College, London School of Economics, Middlebury, New York, Northwestern, Pennsylvania, Oxford, Toronto, UCLA, and Yale.

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*The IB and AP programs prepare students very well for college. The combination of both makes me feel secure about my preparation and knowledge, which will help me in my future years. Being at TASIS has also given me a wide range of universities from which to choose that I would have never considered had I gone somewhere else.*

**Recent TASIS graduate**

*On a recent visit to TASIS, I was reminded once again how fortunate, blessed, and privileged I was to be there—both as a student and as an alumna. One doesn't really “get” how amazing an education at TASIS is until years later. And it's a gift that keeps on giving.*

*Jeanie Cunningham '75, acclaimed musician*



# CREATE YOUR MASTERPIECE

Because becoming an artist is about discovering and nurturing talent, we provide a rich and varied Fine Arts curriculum that encourages students to find their own voice no matter what the discipline. Students can choose more than 20 High School classes in Visual Arts, Music, and Theater, ranging from courses in Photography, Architecture, and Theater Arts to IB and AP offerings in Drawing, 2-D Art and Design, and Visual Arts.

We also provide ample opportunities for extracurricular artistic exhibitions, musical performances, and dramatic productions, and our Spring Arts Festival is an annual celebration of student artwork along with displays and performances by well-known artists and musicians outside the TESIS community. Frequent Academic Travel trips allow aspiring artists to hone their crafts in Europe's most beautiful and culturally rich cities.

*For me, a love of literature, the arts, and the performing arts is the heart and soul of education, for it grows throughout our entire lifetime, keeping alive the excitement of learning, creating constant enrichment in our leisure hours and throughout our long golden years.*

**M. Crist Fleming**





## LEARN FROM THE BEST

TASIS is known for attracting educators who are adventurous, driven, and enthusiastic, and more than 70 percent of our faculty hold advanced degrees. We are proud to employ gifted, passionate educators who encourage intellectual curiosity and demand the most from their students.

Faculty excellence is the core of the TASIS experience, and the teaching does not stop when the school day ends. Our teachers

are also dorm parents, coaches, advisors, and trip leaders, and they come to know their students in meaningful ways both in and out of the classroom. What stands out most to students is the way their teachers care about them. As one recent graduate explained, “The relationships between students and faculty are unlike those at any other school, and this really made TASIS feel like a home with adults I knew I could trust and talk to about anything.”

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*The teachers I had were truly committed to their jobs and put a great amount of effort into engaging all students in class and making sure every single one of us knew the material.*

**Recent TASIS graduate**





*TASIS is an incredible place to learn, live, and enjoy. Your understanding of other countries and their culture will change for the better and you will meet so many incredible people with incredible life stories who will be your friends even after leaving TASIS. You will find you truly have friends all over the world.*

**Recent TASIS graduate**



# BECOME A WORLD CITIZEN

M. Crist Fleming's strongest belief was that our best hope of defeating chaos is through education, and 60 years ago she dreamed of a place in which young people from all over the globe could gather, develop an appreciation for one another's cultures, and work together to make the world a safer and better place. From this vision emerged TASIS, the school she described as "a microcosm of what the world should and could be."

Today TASIS is a vibrant global community of students who represent more than 60 nations and speak more than 30 languages. The TASIS experience unlocks the unique potential of every student and produces what M. Crist Fleming called "international human beings—men and women who are capable of moving easily in any society and any civilization on the face of the earth."



*Coming here will change your perspective. After meeting so many international friends, you will feel a connection even with places you haven't been to and an openness to others' experiences that will give you a tiny spark of familiarity with the whole world. Even if you know nothing about a place, you will know there are good people there that you would like to meet. You will learn to have a fondness for all countries and feel like a true member of the interconnected human race.*

**Recent TASIS graduate**

# BELONG TO A FAMILY

When you come to TASH, you're not just enrolling in a school—you're joining a tight-knit community. Nine on-campus dormitories house approximately 265 boarding students, and our caring and dedicated residential-life staff promotes a culture of accountability and self-reliance, providing students room to develop into independent young adults.

Recent graduates have described TASH as “a very full and heartwarming community in which each member tries to become a better peer to each other,” a school “built on the concept of family,” and a place where “we all live together and help each other grow as students, athletes, and friends.”

*TASH is like your second family. You will always have a person who makes you laugh, cry, smile, and enjoy every moment. You will never feel alone, and the most important part is that the teachers make you feel like you're at home.*

*Recent TASH graduate*





# EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF EUROPE

TASIS pioneered the concept of Academic Travel in 1956. Our students have been exploring Europe ever since.

Committed to academic excellence, we have made our natural and cultural setting in Europe our classroom. Throughout the year, all Middle School and High School students take Academic Travel trips that are related to courses of study or particular

student interests. Examples include a Physics trip to CERN (pictured below), an Economics trip to Geneva, an Ancient History trip to Greece, Modern History trips to Poland and Florence, an English Literature trip to Dublin, Art History trips to Rome and Vienna, an Art and Photography trip to Venice, a Music trip to Munich, a Theater trip to Turin, and language homestays in Spain, France, and Italy.



*Academic Travel was by far the best part of my time at TASIS. I found the trips to be an integral part of the learning process. Removing students from the classroom environment and having them experience first-hand what they have been learning really allows for the material to be understood.*

**Recent TASIS graduate**

*My years at TASIS were the best years of my life because it's not just a place where you go to learn and work hard. It's a community full of action, fun events, and amazing people from all over the world. There is always something to do and TASIS has so much to offer.*

*Recent TASIS graduate*





## BUILD A BETTER WORLD

Our Global Service Program transforms lives by providing every student a unique opportunity to connect across borders through comprehensive experiences that build empathy and encourage personal responsibility. This pioneering program awakens students to humanitarian needs; inspires them to build enduring, mutually beneficial relationships; and leads them toward a life of active citizenship and committed service.

Global Service groups meet once a week to build their knowledge and skills as they prepare for life-changing service trips to destinations across the world, including Cambodia, Kenya, India, Mongolia, Moldova, Nepal, Thailand, and Zambia. Education, poverty, gender equality, the environment, and marginalized populations are among the global issues explored and addressed by Service Learning groups, which also do important work within the local community.

*I can honestly say that my Global Service Program trip changed my life. It broadened my views and helped me realize the greater needs of the world. Words cannot explain how life-changing the trip was.*

**Recent TASIS graduate**



# RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

At TASIS, we recognize that an education is not about classes alone and place a great deal of emphasis on teaching physical fitness and healthy lifestyles.

Varsity teams are fielded for badminton, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, lacrosse, skiing, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball, and we offer more than 20 additional sports at the recreational level. Each year also brings many opportunities to ski and explore

the breathtaking Alps, including Outward Bound trips to Austria or Germany each fall, skiing trips to St. Moritz for the Middle School and to Engelberg and Davos for the High School, and a host of optional trips organized by faculty members throughout the year.

Students inevitably leave TASIS with a heightened appreciation for the outdoors and an understanding of what it takes to succeed in challenging environments.



*TASIS gives every single student the same capability to do as much as possible. It is full of opportunities and can be life-changing if you are willing to get involved and take risks.*

*Recent TASIS graduate*

# JOIN THE TASIS FAMILY

## Switzerland

TASIS The American School in Switzerland offers a challenging college preparatory program during the Academic Year for day students in grades Pre-Kindergarten to 13 (Postgraduate) and boarding students in grades 6–13. With a student body comprising 60 nationalities, TASIS offers a truly global educational experience, taking advantage of its location in the heart of Europe to provide an outstanding program with an unparalleled international dimension. Along with an American college preparatory program, TASIS offers International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and English as an Additional Language programs. Highlights include ten or more days of Academic Travel each year and a pioneering Global Service Program. [www.tasis.ch](http://www.tasis.ch)



## England

TASIS The American School in England offers an American college preparatory curriculum to day students from Pre-Kindergarten to grade 12 and boarding students in grades 8–12. Located 18 miles southwest of London on a beautiful 46-acre estate of Georgian mansions and 17th-century cottages, TASIS England combines a rigorous academic program with exceptional facilities for art, drama, music, computer science, and sports. TASIS offers International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and English as an Additional Language programs. [www.tasisengland.org](http://www.tasisengland.org)



## Puerto Rico

TASIS Dorado is a coeducational day school with English as its language of instruction in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12. It offers a top-quality, innovative academic program within modern facilities and attractive natural surroundings. The School offers excellent programs in music, drama, and art and encourages enthusiasm for learning and individual growth within a purposeful community. [www.dorado.tasis.com](http://www.dorado.tasis.com)



## Portugal

TASIS Portugal opened in Sintra in the fall of 2020 and now has nearly 800 students enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 10. The latest school in the TASIS family, TASIS Portugal is already the school of choice in the greater Lisbon area. The longstanding TASIS traditions, combined with a genuine love of children and their unique qualities, make TASIS Portugal a beautiful place for students to grow, play, and learn. [www.tasisportugal.com](http://www.tasisportugal.com)



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TASIS admits qualified students of any race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, nationality, and ethnic origin in its admissions policies and practices.





